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47

ORIGIN PA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 EUR-25 PM-07 ACDA-19 USIA-15

RSC-01 /073 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER/PDENNIS:SBA

APPROVED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

S/AJ, EUR, PM, ACDA, PA, USIA

----- 075395

P R 191614Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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SALT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. WEDNESDAY MORNING PAPERS FEATURED FORD TO
SPEAK AT UNGA ON FOOD; INSIDE PAPERS REPORTED CONFEREES

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AGREE ON DEFENSE CUT OF 4.9 BILLION BELOW REQUEST; ALSO

SHAH SUPPORTS MIDEAST ATOM BAN. WASHPOST AND WASHSTAR HAD ITEMS ON SALT RESUMPTION. NYTIMES HAD VIENNA ITEM REPORTING PAKISTAN CRITICIZED INDIAN BLAST.

1A. THURSDAY PAPERS FEATURE FORD PROMISES MORE US FOOD AID AT UN; NYTIMES FRONTPAGES FINNEY, BUDGET CUTS MAY CURB ARMS. INSIDE NYTIMES AND WASHPOST HAVE SALT ITEMS; BALTSUN HAS WASHINGTON STORY, NIXON SOUGHT UNDERGROUND TEST BAN. NYTIMES REPORTS KISSINGER WILL GIVE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TODAY A 15,000-WORD STATEMENT ON DETENTE. WASHPOST REPORTS PROCEDURAL FIGHT DELAYS TRADE BILL. LITTLE FRESH COMMENT.

2. SALT. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST HEADED GENEVA STORY, US ENVOY IS OPTIMISTIC ON 10-YEAR SALT ACCORD, STORY REPORTING JOHNSON SAID HE IS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A COMPREHENSIVE 10-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH MOSCOW COULD BE ACHIEVED IN 1975, AS JOHNSON AND SEMENOV RESUMED SALT TALKS. IN AN INTERVIEW, STORY SAYS, JOHNSON SAID: I THINK WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC, ADDING THE AIM OF CURRENT ROUND IS TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT TO COVER THE PERIOD UNTIL 1985.

2A. WASHSTAR HAD SQUIB HEADED, SALT OUTLOOK, REPORTING JOHNSON WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC ON 10-YEAR AGREEMENT, SQUIB ADDING THAT SECOND ROUND OF TALKS THAT BEGAN NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO WAS SCHEDULED TO RESUME WEDNESDAY AND SOME DISARMAMENT EXPERTS IN GENEVA WERE SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN JOHNSON.

2B. THURSDAY WASHPOST HAS JOHNSON PHOTO AND SHORT GENEVA STORY REPORTING SALT NEGOTIATORS RESUMED SALT AFTER SIX-MONTH RECESS, ADDING THAT TEN-MAN DELEGATION HEADED BY JOHNSON AND SEMYONOV, CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP A TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT LIMITING THEIR COUNTRIES' HUGE NUCLEAR ARSENALS, MET FOR TWO AND HALF HOURS AND AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS FRIDAY, ACCORDING CONFERENCE SOURCES.

2C. NYTIMES HAS GENEVA UPI REPORTING NEGOTIATORS RESUMED WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE ACCORD IN 1975
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TO LAST FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF TEN YEARS, ADDING JOHNSON SAID HE WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED, ALTHOUGH WESTERN EXPERTS SAID THEY DOUBTED THAT ANY FAR-REACHING PACT COULD BE ACHIEVED SO SOON. ACCORDING UPI, THESE EXPERTS SAID MAJOR DIFFICULTIES INCLUDE NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND PROBLEM OF VERIFYING WHETHER OTHER SIDE DEPLOYS STANDARD WARHEADS OR MIRVS, THE EXPERTS ADDING

THAT PRESIDENT FORD HASN'T YET FAMILIARIZED HIMSELF WITH THE ARMS ISSUE AND THAT EXACT OBJECTIVES PROBABLY HAD TO WAIT UNTIL KISSINGER'S MOSCOW VISIT. TODAY'S SESSION, 60TH IN CURRENT ROUND, LASTED TWO HOURS FORTY MINUTES AND AS ALWAYS NEITHER SIDE HAD ANY COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING.

3. UNDERGROUND TREATY. THURSDAY BALTSUN WASHINGTON AP SAYS NIXON AND KISSINGER TRIED BUT FAILED TO PERSUADE SOVIET UNION TO AGREE TO BAN NUCLEAR UNDERGROUND TESTS, ACCORDING TO SOURCES EXPLAINING A CAUTIOUSLY-WORDED PARAGRAPH IN A SPEECH BY ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE WHO SAID THAT AFTER YEARS OF SUCH AMBITIOUS PLANS AS ATOMS FOR PEACE AND PLOWSHARE QUOTE AMERICAN INTEREST IN PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS HAS DECLINED. UNQUOTE. AP SAYS NIXON AND KISSINGER WANTED AN ALL-EMBRACING TREATY AND ARGUED THERE WAS NO WAY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PEACEFUL AND MILITARY EXPLOSIONS BUT BREZHNEV INSISTED THAT PEACEFUL TESTS BE LEFT INTACT, ACCORDING TO THE INFORMANTS, SO ALL THAT NIXON KISSINGER COULD ACHIEVE IN JULY WAS AN AGREEMENT TO LIMIT UNDERGROUND TESTS TO 150,000 TONS OF TNT AND TREATY EXEMPTED NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND SAID THE TWO SUPERPOWERS SHOULD NEGOTIATE A SEPARATE TREATY ON SUCH EXPLOSIONS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

4. DETENTE ITEMS. THURSDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN REPORTS KISSINGER STATEMENT TODAY BEFORE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE COVERS SOVIET-AMERICAN POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND HAS BEEN LARGELY RE-WRITTEN SINCE AUGUST 7 WHEN KISSINGER ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT, HIS AIDES SAY, BECAUSE HE WAS AWARE NIXON WAS ABOUT TO RESIGN. WEDNESDAY'S WITNESS, DEAN RUSK, ATTRACTED LARGEST AUDIENCE SO FAR AND FULBRIGHT WAS JOINED BY SPARKMAN AND CASE.
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GWERTZMAN SAYS RUSK EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR FURTHER ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH THE RUSSIANS AND SAID THE APPROACH MUST BE WHOLESALE RATHER THAN RETAIL AND MUST INVOLVE DRAMATIC SIMPLICITY, RUSK SUGGESTING A BAN ON ALL MISSILES THAT COULD CARRY WARHEADS FARTHER THAN 1800 MILES AND A LIMIT OF 500 ON THOSE THAT CAN GO UP TO THAT DISTANCE.

4A. THURSDAY WASHPOST ISAACS LOCAL REPORTS THAT TRADE BILL IS BEING DELAYED BECAUSE JEWISH LEADERS SAY THEY CANNOT MONITOR A SECRET AGREEMENT ON ALLOWING JEWS TO LEAVE SOVIET UNION, AND THERE ISN'T YET AGREEMENT ON WHETHER PRESIDENT IS TO BE EMPOWERED TO EXTEND HIS WAIVER OF THE JACKSON AMENDMENT AFTER A ONE-YEAR TRIAL.

5. DEFENSE FUNDS. THURSDAY NYTIMES FINNEY WASHINGTON
REPORTS HOUSE-SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WORKED
OUT FINAL SIZE OF THIS YEAR'S DEFENSE BUDGET APPROVING
82.5 BILLION FOR MILITARY SERVICES, 4.5 BILLION LESS THAN
REQUESTED BY DOD. NOT ALL APPROPRIATIONS WILL BE SPENT IN
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AND NET EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL
ACTION WILL REDUCE DEFENSE SPENDING BY 2.6 BILLION BELOW
PROJECTED SPENDING LEVEL OF 86 BILLION. BETWEEN INFLATION
AND BUDGET CUTS, DOD IS MORE THAN 11 BILLION SHORT OF
FUNDS TO CARRY OUT PLANNED PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND
MATERIALS, A REDUCTION WHICH PENTAGON OFFICIALS SAY CAN
ONLY BE ABSORBED BY SLOWING DOWN OR POSTPONING THE PROCURE-
MENT OF MAJOR WEAPONS AND DEFERING THE MAINTENANCE AND
OVERHAUL OF EXISTING WEAPONS. PENTAGON OFFICIALS SUGGEST
FORD ADMINISTRATION IS APPROACHING MAJOR POLICY DECISION
ON WHETHER IT IS WILLING TO SEE A DETERIORATION IN ARMED
FORCES PREPAREDNESS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE206403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HSFOSTER/PDENNIS:SBA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740263-0287
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740931/aaaaazxs.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <22 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE GENEVA FOR CSCE
TAGS: PINT, PARM, US, XG
To: SALT TALKS GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005